The drawings were objected to for including reference numbers that were alleged to not be described in the specification. The objection is traversed.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 8, lines 7 and 8 wherein it is stated that the terminal 100 and 200 are substantially the same and that only terminal 100 will be described. Thus, it is abundantly clear that the reference numerals 21, 22, etc. of terminal 200 correspond to the reference numerals 11, 12, etc. of the terminal 100. As such, the reference numeral are described in the specification and therefore, no drawing change or amendment to the specification has been made. The Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection.

The specification has, however, been amended to address some informalities noted in a review of the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 to 16, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,131,067 (Girerd). In addition, Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Girerd in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,902,351 (Streit), Claims 5 and 18 were rejected under § 103(a) over Girerd, Claims 6, 19 and 25 were rejected over Girerd in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,299,132 (Wortham), and Claims 17 and 22 to 24 were rejected over Girerd in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,116 (Kitano). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns obtaining status information of an information generating terminal by a client terminal. According to the invention, an information generating terminal (e.g., a terminal in an automobile) generates status information (such as a video and position or direction GPS data) and transmits the data to a

server, where the data is stored using a URL of the generating terminal. A client can request viewing information of the information generating terminals from the server and can then select a terminal for which direct communication between the client and the terminal is desired. Thus, status of the terminal, such as location, direction and video, can be obtained from the terminal by the client directly, without increasing communication traffic with the server. Moreover, a plurality of clients can communicate with the terminal simultaneously.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 14 is an information providing apparatus, using a general-purpose protocol, for allotting input information, which has been entered at a plurality of information generating terminals connected to a network, to a client connected to the network, comprising terminal status storage means for receiving data sent from the plurality of information generating terminals at predetermined time intervals, and storing the data in a storage unit provided for each information generating terminal, first transmitting means for transmitting viewing information concerning the information generating terminals to the client in order to make it possible for the client to select an information generating terminal for which data has been stored, and second transmitting means for transmitting, to the client, terminal identifying communication information identifying an information generating terminal selected by the client so that the client can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal.

Claims 20, 21, 22 and 39, 41, are method, computer program and system claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 14. Claims 42, 44, 45 and 47 include, *inter alia,* subject matter along the lines of Claim 14.

Claim 30 is directed to the terminal apparatus and specifically is a status information providing apparatus for outputting information to a server connected to a network, comprising sensing means for sensing position information of the apparatus itself, and transmitting means for transferring the position information by HTTP protocol to the server on the network according to a URL which includes characters identifying the status information providing apparatus, so as to store the position information in storage means provided in the server.

Claims 26, 34, 35 and 37 include, *inter alia,* subject matter that substantially corresponds to Claim 30.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a client receiving terminal identifying communication information identifying an information generating terminal selected by the client so that the client can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal, or at least the feature of transferring position information by HTTP protocol to a server on a network according to a URL which includes characters identifying a status information providing apparatus, so as to store the position information in storage means provided in the server.

Girerd is merely seen to disclose that a client requests position information of a remote sensor from a server, whereby the server queries the remote sensor for the information, which is then passes on to the client for display. However, Girerd is not seen to disclose or to suggest that the server transmits identifying communication information so that the client can communicate directly with the terminal. In order words, the client requests the information from the server, with the server communicating with the remote sensor. Thus, a server is necessary for communicating with the remote sensor, whereas, in the present invention, the client can communicate directly. Thus, Girerd is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

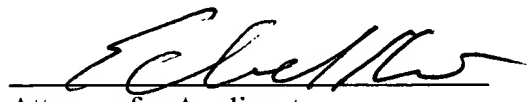
Wortham is merely seen to disclose a tracking system along the lines of Girerd and therefore, is not seen to add anything to overcome Girerd's deficiencies.

Moreover, nothing in Girerd or Wortham is seen to disclose that the remote sensor provides the information to the server with a URL of the terminal. Rather, the server knows the network address (IP address) of the remote device and communicates via the address. In the present invention, however, the information is provided with the URL. Thus, the present invention is believed to be allowable over Girerd for at least this reason as well as the foregoing.

Streit and Kitano have been studied but are not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of the Girerd. Streit is merely seen to teach the use of a navigation system, and Kitano is merely seen to disclose searching for an image similar to a reference image based on position information. However, neither Streit nor Kitano are seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS AND THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 2 as follows:

--This operation is as illustrated in the flowcharts of Fig. [4 and 5] 3 and 4. The processing executed by terminal 100 (and, similarly, by terminal 200) will be described first. It will be assumed below that the IP address corresponding to the DNS (Domain Name Service) of the WWW server 300 is 192.168.100.1 and that the file name of the data input CGI program is "input-cgi".--

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, lines 12 to 16 as follows:

--In the [ULR] URL character string, a ":" or "/" within the QUERY_STRING variable is a reserved word. Therefore, an URL is created in which a conversion is made to "%3A" obtained by encoding ":" and "%2F" obtained by encoding "/". Accordingly, the transmission data is as follows:--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. to 13. (Canceled)

14. (Amended) An information providing apparatus, using a general-purpose protocol, for allotting input information, which has been entered at a plurality of information generating terminals connected to a network, to a client connected to the network, comprising:

terminal status storage means for receiving data sent from the plurality of information generating terminals at predetermined time intervals, and storing the data in a storage unit provided for each information generating terminal;

first transmitting means for transmitting viewing information concerning the information generating terminals to [a] the client in order to make it possible for the client to select [any object] an information generating terminal for which data has been stored; and

second transmitting means for transmitting, to the client, terminal identifying communication information [for receiving] identifying an information generating terminal selected by the client so that the client can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal[, which has been selected by the client, in such a manner that the client can receive information that has been entered from an input device possessing the information generating terminal that has been selected].

18. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said terminal status storage means stores and updates position information, which is sent from

each of the information generating terminals, in accordance with an URL of said information providing apparatus and a directory name and file name specific to each individual information generating terminal.

19. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said first transmitting means transfers data, by HyperText Markup Language, composed of combined image information and URL information, said combined image information consisting of a map image in [the] a vicinity of a position requested by [a] the client and an icon image indicating a position at which an information generating terminal contained in the map image is present, and the URL information is linked to the icon image and allows transmission by said second transmitting means.

20. (Amended) A method of controlling an information providing apparatus using a general-purpose protocol for allotting input information, which has been entered at a plurality of information generating terminals connected to a network, to a client connected to the network, comprising the steps of:

a terminal status storage step of receiving data sent from the plurality of information generating terminals at predetermined time arrivals, and storing the data in a storage unit provided for each information generating terminal;

a first transmitting step of transmitting viewing information concerning the information generating terminals to [a] the client in order to make it possible for the client

to select [any object] an information generating terminal for which data has been stored; and

a second transmitting step of transmitting, to the client, terminal identifying communication information [for receiving] identifying an information generating terminal selected by the client so that the client can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal[, which has been selected by the client, in such a manner that the client can receive information that has been entered from an input device possessing the information generating terminal that has been selected].

21. (Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing program code functioning as an information providing apparatus using a general-purpose protocol for allotting input information, which has been entered at a plurality of information generating terminals connected to a network, to a client connected to the network, comprising:

program code of a terminal status storage step of receiving data sent from the plurality of information generating terminals at predetermined time intervals, and storing the data in a storage unit provided for each information generating terminal;

program code of a first transmitting step of transmitting viewing information concerning the information generating terminals to a client in order to make it possible for the client to select [any object] an information generating terminal for which data has been stored; and

program code of a second transmitting step of transmitting, to the client, terminal identifying communication information [for receiving] identifying an information generating terminal selected by the client so that the client can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal[, which has been selected by the client, in such a manner that the client can receive information that has been entered from an input device possessing the information generating terminal that has been selected].

22. (Amended) An information providing system in which a plurality of information generating terminals, an information display terminal and a server are connected via a general-purpose network, wherein each information generating terminal [includes] comprises:

first input means for inputting video data representing video sensed by a prescribed image sensing means;

second input means for inputting position information from a Global Positioning System; and

first transmitting means for transmitting information, which has been input by said first and second input means, in order to store the information in said server in accordance with an URL allocated to said information generating terminal;

said information display terminal [includes] comprises:

first requesting means for requesting said server [for transmission of] to transmit viewing information relating to said information generating terminals;

selecting means for selecting a desired information generating terminal from the viewing information that has been sent from said server; and

display means for displaying at least the video data, which has been input by said first input means, contained in information that has been generated by the information generating terminal selected by said selecting means; and

said server [includes] comprises:

storage means for storing information, which is transmitted from said information generating terminal, at a location corresponding to the URL;

second transmitting means which, in a case where said first requesting means of said information display terminal has issued a request, [is for transmitting] transmits the viewing information relating to the information generating terminal stored by said storage means to the information display terminal that issued the request; and

third transmitting means for transmitting, to said information display terminal, terminal identifying communication information [for accessing the information display terminal] identifying the information generating terminal, which [that] has been selected by said selecting means of said information display terminal, so that the information display terminal can directly communicate with the information generating terminal so as to receive input information of the information generating terminal.

25. (Amended) The system according to Claim 22, wherein said second transmitting means of said server transfers data, by HyperText Markup Language, composed of combined image information and URL information, said combined image information consisting of a map image in [the] a vicinity of a position requested by the information display terminal and an icon image indicating a position at which an information generating terminal contained in the map image is present, and the URL information is linked to the icon image and allows transmission by said third transmitting means.

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